



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
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Arizona Water Initiative Northwest Basins Planning Area Meetings Summary

Date: May 18, 2017
Time: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Location: Medical Professional Center of Kingman
on the campus of Kingman Regional Medical Center
Cerbat & Hualapai Conference Rooms
1739 Beverly Ave.
Kingman, Arizona 86409

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. ADWR Northwest Basins Planning Area Coordinator, John Riggins, opened the meeting by welcoming stakeholders and reviewing the agenda.
 - b. Mr. Riggins provided an update on both tracks of the Arizona Water Initiative and noted the committees formed by the Governor's Water Augmentation Council.
 - c. Mr. Riggins provided an update of the other two Planning Areas of the Arizona Water Initiative that are actively meeting.
 - d. Mr. Riggins provided a summary of the two previous meetings of the Northwest Basins Planning Area.
 - e. Mr. Riggins provided an explanation and short tutorial for navigating the new [Arizona Water Initiative Webpage](#).
2. Presentation: Planning Area Information Updates
 - a. Planning Area information updates are from a section of Arizona's Next Century: A Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability report (Strategic Vision) which was published by ADWR in 2014. Through the Planning Area Process, ADWR is working to update information, such as Northwest Basins Information, and the presentation includes existing information and proposed additional information updates.
 - b. Mr. Riggins provided an explanation of land ownership in the Northwest Basins Planning Area which included total land ownership and ownership by groundwater basin in the Planning Area.
 - o A stakeholder asked about the total land area of the Northwest Basins Planning Area in relation to Mohave County's total land area and Mr. Riggins explained that the Northwest Basins made up approximately 29 percent of the land area of Mohave County.
 - c. Mr. Riggins explained the details of the basin and range physiographic province in relation to the Northwest Basins Planning Area.

- d. A stakeholder commented that further studies should look at the salinity conditions and amount of potable water available in the Hualapai Basin when looking at the total groundwater storage.
- e. Mr. Riggins explained the general characteristics of the groundwater basins in the Planning Area
 - The explanation included:
 - previously presented estimated groundwater storage for the basins
 - the upper and lower boundaries of the estimated groundwater storage
 - estimated natural recharge of the basin.
- f. A stakeholder asked about the ranges listed on a slide in relation to the upper and lower boundaries of the estimated groundwater storage.
 - Mr. Riggins explained that the values listed were previously presented in June 2016, however stated that he would double check the values to verify if the number was correct.
 - Note: The upper and lower boundaries from the USGS Study were confirmed using [U.S. Geological Survey SIR 2012-5275](#), Page 43, Table 4.
- g. Mr. Riggins explained the surface water conditions, ecological resources, and reclaimed water status in the Planning Area.
- h. Mr. Riggins read several excerpts from the *Strategic Vision* and explained the updated language that will be added to the Northwest Basins Planning Area Final Report.
 - Mr. Riggins explained that these updates were still considered provisional and subject to change based on new data and stakeholder suggestions.
- i. Mr. Riggins presented sources of updated water demands for the Planning Area which included a description of the upcoming ADWR water-level survey taking place in the Fall of 2017.
- j. A stakeholder suggested looking at the possible water usage for the “Frontier Plant” in the Planning Area and stated that they believed the plant was associated with a phone company.
- k. A stakeholder asked if there was a reporting process in place for groundwater demand in the Northwest Basins Planning Area or if ADWR canvassed for information.
 - Mr. Riggins responded by explaining to the stakeholder that in areas outside of Active Management Areas (AMAs) and Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs), reporting of water demand is not required.
 - Mr. Riggins explained that ADWR does reach out to various governments and organizations for planning research but a canvass or blanket letter is not part of the data collection.
 - Mr. Riggins explained that stakeholder feedback and suggestions from the meeting are also included in this data collection process.
- l. In response to stakeholder comments during this portion of the meeting, Deputy Assistant Director and Manager of the Arizona Water Initiative, Ms. Gerry Walker, provided a brief explanation of the Planning Area Process and explained the following:
 - Why ADWR is holding meeting for the Northwest Basins Planning Area
 - What ADWR already knows regarding stakeholder input
 - What ADWR can and cannot do per Arizona Revised Statutes

3. [Presentation: Water Demand Updates](#)

- a. Mr. Riggins provided a presentation on the updated water demand figures for the Planning Area which included water demands for the municipal, industrial, and agricultural sectors.
- b. Mr. Riggins provided estimated agricultural water demands for the Planning Area based off new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) field verification data.
 - Mr. Riggins explained that the estimated water demands provided by the USGS are still considered provisional, subject to change and yet to be finalized. The provisional data is anticipated to be finalized by the USGS within a year, however significant changes

- between the provisional estimates presented and the future finalized values are not expected.
 - o Mr. Riggins described the data collection methods used by the USGS during the crop survey water demand analysis.
- c. Mr. Riggins showed the estimated agricultural water demands for the Planning Area ranging from 2014 to the most recent updated values provided by the USGS.
- d. Mr. Riggins then explained the newest provisional water demand estimates for the Hualapai and Sacramento Groundwater Basins.
 - o This explanation included several photos corresponding to the areas noted by the USGS as being cropped, cleared, abandoned or fallow during their surveys.
 - o This explanation also included details about the irrigation types noted in the groundwater basins for agricultural water use.
- e. A stakeholder commented that, although they appreciated the updated data presented at the meeting, they felt the data did not address the issues and concerns being voiced by the stakeholders. ADWR has explained on several occasions that before solutions to issues can be developed, it is necessary to collect and update water use data that will provide necessary information regarding water resource conditions in the area.
- f. Mr. Riggins closed the presentation by showing an updated estimated water demand table for the Planning Area.
- g. Many stakeholders expressed concerns over increased water demands from large water users in the Northwest Basins Planning Area.
- h. A stakeholder asked about the strategies identified in the Strategic Vision and how those strategies discussed at the meetings can lead to proposed legislative change.

4. Presentation: Water Conservation

- a. Mr. Riggins gave a presentation on various water conservation tools and resources available to the Planning Area.
- b. Mr. Riggins explained the numerous resources, tips, and educational tools available on the [ADWR Conservation Webpage](#).
- c. Mr. Riggins also explained that additional water resource information can be found on the [Arizona Water Facts Webpage](#).
- d. Mr. Riggins provided details about water conservation in the municipal water sector and noted some of the measures used to conserve water by the [City of Kingman](#).
- e. Mr. Riggins also described some conservation best management practices (BMP's).
- f. A stakeholder commented that they thought the water conservation presentation wasn't needed for those in attendance or even for those living in the area (Planning Area).
- g. Mr. Riggins and Ms. Walker explained that the conservation information was a discussion that will be had at every Planning Area meeting of the Arizona Water Initiative. This presentation was tailored specifically to local water conservation efforts of the Planning Area. Presenting the information and providing the [slides and hyperlinks online](#), offer the opportunity to educate anyone interested in water conservation at the meetings and online.

5. General Comment

- a. A stakeholder from the University of Arizona-Mohave County Cooperative Extension explained the possibility of having a meeting which would feature University of Arizona Law Professors providing a "Water Law 101"-type meeting.

- b. Ms. Gerry Walker addressed a comment from a stakeholder which inquired about the process of designating an Active Management Area (AMA).
 - o Ms. Walker explained that a presentation was given by ADWR Legal Counsel regarding the procedures for designating an AMA by petition ([Link to Presentation](#)). Ms. Walker also explained that ADWR can assist anyone with understanding the steps involved in the petition process

6. Closing Remarks

- a. Mr. Riggins thanked those in the audience for attending, participating and for their feedback. Mr. Riggins stated that if anyone had any additional information, suggestions, or questions they can contact John Riggins at jrriggins@azwater.gov or (602)771-4782.

***Meeting Attendance: 31**